



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

July 5, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: AIS Observers

FROM: David Potter
Branch Chief, FSB

SUBJECT: Request for Angel Sharks

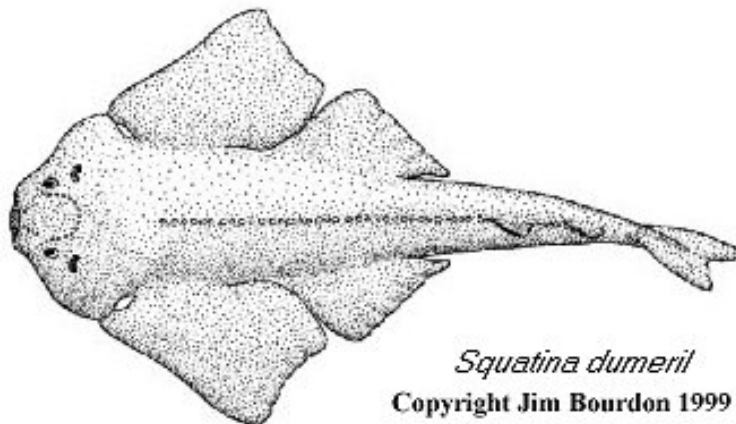
NMFS staff is conducting a study on the Atlantic Angel shark. The biology of this species is not well known and NMFS scientists will attempt to answer several questions regarding its growth, reproduction, and food habits.

The researchers involved are requesting that observers retain and send in **WHOLE** angel sharks of any size to the Observer Program at the Falmouth Tech Park. Only animals that are brought up **DEAD** should be retained. All animals should be sent in according to normal sample protocols. If a whole specimen cannot be obtained, then a **MEASURED** fork length and total length should be taken and, if possible, a vertebral sample of 6-10 vertebrae from the area immediately posterior to the gill openings.

The angel shark is a prohibited species but the Exempted Fishing Permit given to all observers will allow the possession of these fish. A copy of the permit should be with the observer at all times. We would like to stress that only **DEAD** animals are kept or sampled. All animals brought up alive should be returned to the water as soon as possible.

Any questions or information requests should be directed to Brian Gervelis at 508-495-2383 or Joe Mello at 508-495-2110.

Thanks for your help!!



Squatina dumeril
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